GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5264
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
PREVENTION OF MIGRATORY BIRD
Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Headed Mongolian Goose who migrate to India carry the deadly H5N1 strain of the avian flu virus;

(b) if so, whether these birds are spotted in India, and

(c) the steps contemplated to be taken in the advent of possible spread of the virus?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) Highly virulent influenza A virus of sub-type H5 had been insolated from the Bar-headed Mongolian Goose in Mongolia in 2005.

(b) Bar-headed Mongolian Goose were spotted in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra during 2007.

(c) The `Action Plan for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza` formulated by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries sets out the actions required to be taken by various agencies for tackling the disease. In respect of the infected area, these actions, inter alia, include controlling the movement of poultry, culling of all poultry, destruction of eggs and poultry feed followed by clean-up and disinfection and preventing restocking of poultry for a period of three months after completion of sanitization. During this time, strict surveillance of a specified area, outside the infected area, is also carried out to watch out against any spread of infection.